

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1-3 and 5-12.

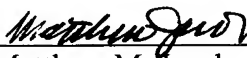
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claim 4 is allowable.

Accordingly, claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 1 and the remaining claims are dependent on thus-amended claim 1.

Thus, it is apparent that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Katsumi OOMORI et al.

By:   
Matthew M. Jacob  
Registration No. 25,154  
Attorney for Applicants

MJ/da  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
December 5, 2003